

CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

December 16, 2009 – 1:00 -2:30 p.m. ET

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL		R2	
IITF		R3	Karen Malis-Clark
NA		R4	Carol Ryan
NRS	Barbara McGuinness	R5	Tim Williams
PNW & PSW	Becky Bittner	R6	Susan Thomas
RMRS		R8	Sharon Waltrip
SRS		R9	Don Howlett
R1		R10	
WO-Detached	Michelle Andrews	WO	Terry West, Sandy Frost, Safiya Samman, Sue Cummings

Director's Overview

- Thank you to all for making time during the holidays to be on the call. Happy Holidays to all!!

Report on Climate Change Education – need to complete in mid-January – FS Climate Change Ed. team, representing all Deputy Areas, has been working on it. Team has tentatively identified strategies, projects and activities, and emphasizes two tracts – internal and external.

- Internal – educate FS employees – work closely with 7 other teams – one is about bringing science – science you can use – making it accessible to managers.
- External – public and school systems – identified *Natural Inquirer* series as key component in strategy; will support and enhance. Also identifies professional development for teachers on climate change.
- Safiya is working with interagency Climate Change Education team which will submit to the White House actions that should be taken on climate change education.
- Please send additional ideas for either effort to Safiya by January 11.
 - Barbara McGuinness (NRS) – Ideas from Northern Research Station...
 - Planning replication of **Forest For Every Classroom** in Wisconsin – focused on Climate Change and LTR Learning Progression– Barbara will send additional info to Safiya
 - NRS is conducting a series of Climate Change education meetings at FS offices – overview of effort is Chief's **People, Places and Things** – Barbara will send additional info to Safiya

Water – strong and growing emphasis on water in USDA and in Forest Service – Safiya sees that water can be a unifying theme for our education efforts. “Forest to the Faucet” – opportunity to educate about what happens to water across all landscapes. Secretary has directed USDA agencies to work together – water can be a unifying theme.

- *Move It, Drink It, Eat It* – a new USDA initiative that connects water, nutrition and physical activity – high-visibility initiative at USDA level. Safiya is participating in meetings to decide what the *Move It, Drink it, Eat it* initiative “looks like” as it develops. Please keep it on your radar screen.
- FS group has developed educational materials on water – will have website soon.
- Partners also interested in water resources. NEEF – Miami Waterwise, and Atlanta WaterWise

Prioritizing Projects -- we have many terrific projects underway - FFEC – Distance Learning programs – Green Schools! How do we make all these work together and support agency mission and priorities. Safiya would like your feedback!!

?? from Carol – Have folks seen the recent email from NWF about new Youth and Careers in Nature (YCN) appropriations that provide \$20.5 million for youth education to five DOI agencies?

- Safiya will share note with all – feel free to share it with local partners and FS executives. The list of supported programs is similar to programs we have – however, BLM is seeing a tripling of their budget. Safiya will investigate opportunities to link with BLM – would be great if similar increase of funding happened in FS. While the FS has similar programs – we haven't put them in the context of youth outreach. No budget line item for CE also is a challenge.

National Wildlife Federation – has focused policy group that works on EE – NWF has testified in support of agency budget requests for 'youth and nature' programs.

- **Be Out There** Campaign – <http://www.nwf.org/beoutthere/> Terry and Iris attended briefing in Washington this week – campaign is focused on connecting kids with nature and unifies many efforts underway at NWF – such as the Green Hour. *Be Out There* is similar to FS *Discover the Forest* campaign. Main focus of NWF's efforts is on families, and especially Moms.
- *NatureFind* is an important component of *Be Out There*, and provides a database of events and places that you could take your family to.
 - *NatureFind* is seeking all info they can find – may be able to get more info into database. Still needs to have more FS info, although all NFs should be in database at this point Would be good to focus attention on filling in holes.
 - Can find sites/events on iPod and iPhone

Discover the Forest – Year 2 of Ad Council Campaign

- Shrek will be involved in PSAs, filmed PSA in CA; will show at beginning of new Shrek film – in movie theaters in March 2010 –
 - Tim would like to contact Ad Council to get PSA for new partnership with Six Flags – need to get materials – **Safiya will send contact information.**

New Format for Conference Calls? – most like it – will continue on in this pattern. **Volunteers needed for January call!**

ROUND ROBIN

International Institute of Tropical Forestry – *Carlos Dominguez Cristobal (sent in)*

- CE Manual for Puerto Rico finished this week (Draft). During the next month about 25 individuals (science and math teachers, community leaders and co-workers) will have the opportunity to read it and offers comments. The comments will be evaluated next February for incorporation. Studying ways to adapt for U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Two CE articles were submitted to the science magazine of the *Association Teachers of Puerto Rico* (Acta Cientifica). Both articles and the CE Manual are in Spanish.

Northern Research Station – *Barbara McGuinness* –

- Just finished a climate change workshop on the Green Mountains and White Mountains NFs
- Working on reviewing MKIW proposals.

Pacific Northwest Research Station – *Becky Bittner*

- Working on MKIW reviews for R6 and R10
- Working with Jessica on PNW edition of the *Investigator*

WO – Detached – *Michelle Andrews*

- Working on wrapping up EUGENE website, please send comments!
- **Natural Inquirer** - Finishing up climate change articles for new **Natural Inquirer** – close to sending it off for editing. "Ecosystems" NI edition is still in design. "Student Scientists" will be next edition.

Region 3 – *Karen Malis Clark*

- Jean has been working on New Mexico Forestry Camp; and is still very actively involved in PLT in NM –

- Arizona PLT program has been orphaned – 3rd time in Karen's career that PLT has been left without sponsor – however the new AZ State Forester (*Vicky Christensen*) is interested in helping support – she is PLT trained and familiar with program – Kathy McGlaughlin has met with Vicky in Phoenix –
- Working on MKIW project.

Region 5 – Tim Williams

- Have student working on People's Garden initiative – in-putting information in USDA website.
- Will have MKIW rankings by tomorrow – pulling together crew to finish work.
- Working on updating Region 5 CE strategic plan to make it more site specific – Lisa Fischer led effort for first strategic plan which provides excellent programmatic direction – this effort will take that guidance to the site level. Just conducted first planning meeting; and will have a second meeting March 2-3, 2010 – inviting Kristen Nelson (*IS*), Don Virgovic (*NW*), & Safiya Samman (*CE*) – and would like to invite Joe Meade (*NPO*)
- Woodsy Owl programs starting to get together – Head Start – might have up to 8-9 programs underway in the coming year. Do two programs/day at each site. Working with Iris getting JFR programs under way too.

Region 6 – Susan Thomas

- Working with kids on snow shoes today!! Partnering with a Field Series in conjunction with Nature Center – 4-5th Grades, morning began with climate change – then outdoor activities – did pre-test and will do post-test in 5 weeks. Trying to get better with evaluation. Cool School Challenge – climate change curriculum in PNW – using curriculum – looking at carbon footprint. **Safiya would like Susan to call her next week to further discuss Cool School Challenge.**
- Meeting tomorrow on MKIW proposals – have snow!! Lots of PNW snow programs.

Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip

- Things are winding down a little at LBL –
- Working on reviewing MKIW proposals – R8 had 37 proposals – less than in past years, but still many good ones.– busily reviewing proposals –
- LBL busy with trainings – Sue and Safiya will provide NAEE Guidelines training. Sharon will present at Regional NAI workshop in Asheville, NC – presentation will be on working with students to review interpretive panels.
- Region had a large ice storm one year ago –doing a big EA on 7 compartments – opportunity to see how CE fits into planning process.

Region 9 – Don Howlett

- BIG NEWS – Don, after 31+ years with the FS, will be retiring at the end of the month! Group expressed congratulations for his tireless work and wonderful spirit. Don explained that we should see him around CE in other capacities in the future –
 - R9 is pondering how to fill behind Don – may be relooking at how to organize CE and IS in future.
 - Don is also profiled in the latest edition of Money Magazine – check it out!
- Chequamegon-Nicolet NF – Great Lakes VC – just received \$1.5 mm grant for teaching American history from Dept of Education T.A.H. grant !– working with many school districts – very exciting – VC Director will write up short briefing for Safiya – great story to get into ***People, Places and Things*** and ***FS Today***.
- Congratulations Don!!! Saying that the CE Coord. Team and the agency will miss you is a vast understatement!!!

Washington Office – Safiya

- Looking for detailers to fill behind staff; please contact Safiya with interest.
- Safiya greatly appreciates all the work and contributions, and looks forward to fill positions.
- Outreach for Asst. Director closes 12/21 – and CE will move to filling the position ASAP thereafter.